

U.S. unemployment rate at lowest level since March 2009

Austin Business Journal by Mark Harden, New Media Editor

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The U.S. unemployment rate fell to 8.6 percent in November from October's 9 percent rate, the lowest level since March 2009.

The nation's employers added a net 120,000 nonfarm payroll jobs, the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) reported.

BLS also upwardly revised its previous estimates of payroll jobs for September and October. It now reports 210,000 jobs added in September instead of the initial estimate of 158,000, and 100,000 extra jobs in October instead of 80,000.

Unemployment had hovered in the range of 9 to 9.2 percent since April.

A drop in the nation's workforce — those working or seeking work — by about 315,000 people contributed to the decline in the jobless rate.

Meanwhile, Austin's average unemployment rate in October is 7.4 percent and the state's average unemployment rate reached 8.5 percent.

Find out [more](#) on the U.S. unemployment rate and how the stock market is reacting from *The Washington Post*.

The [Texas Workforce Commission](#) announced Thursday it will extend unemployment benefits for an additional six weeks, the *Austin Business Journal* [reported](#).

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